

ER
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20 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Career Service Board

1. At your morning meeting on 7 April, the question was raised by two of the Deputy Directors as to whether I should be named Chairman of the Career Service Board. On your instructions I have made a study of this matter, which has involved discussions with several senior officials of the agency; inquiry into certain aspects of Career Service with several working level employees; and a personal study of the "Career Service Handbook" which contains most of the written material that has been accumulated on this subject. The following findings are presented for your information.

a. Nearly all of the senior officials connected with the Career Service program, with the possible exception of those under the DD/A, believe that the program has stagnated and is in danger of becoming a joke around the agency.

b. There seems to be a tremendous accumulation of printed material on the subject of Career Service, but little indication of much action.

c. There is considerable interest, enthusiasm and hope on the part of a very large number of agency employees in the development of a Career Service program.

d. Quite a few people recognize that CIA employees have no permanent status--we are not protected by Civil Service regulations and have no service of our own.

e. The general handling of personnel throughout the agency, particularly by units under the Personnel office, is extremely bad. On the basis of what I have discovered thus far, I would say that it is one of the more serious problems within CIA and something on which we should take immediate action. As an example, following are the steps generally required for a promotion:

- (1) The number of individual steps required in processing - 47
- (2) The number of individual steps required in a division - 25
- (3) The number of individual steps required in PDC - 20
- (4) Pieces of paper required (including copies) - 29
- (5) Number of different organizational components involved - 18
- (6) Approval signatures required - 13
- (7) Number of different forms used - 8

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f. It is my belief that nearly everyone in CIA would like to see the Career Service program succeed, but my feeling is that unless something drastic is done about it very soon we would be well advised to drop the entire matter and stop talking about it.

3. I understand that at the last meeting of the Career Service Board in March, there was discussion of the possibility of my taking over the chairmanship. It was pointed out at the time that the program as now drafted precluded this and consequently revisions are being made at the present time to be presented to the board at its meeting on 23 April which would permit the appointment of a chairman by the DCI.

4. My recommendations are:

a. After the Career Service Board recommends a change on 23 April, that you appoint me chairman for an indefinite term.

b. That simultaneously you direct the Inspector General to make a thorough investigation of the handling of personnel throughout the agency.

c. That subsequent to the above steps certain changes in the top level of the Personnel office be made.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

LBK:rm

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